

Spring 2010

Caroliniana Columns - Spring 2010

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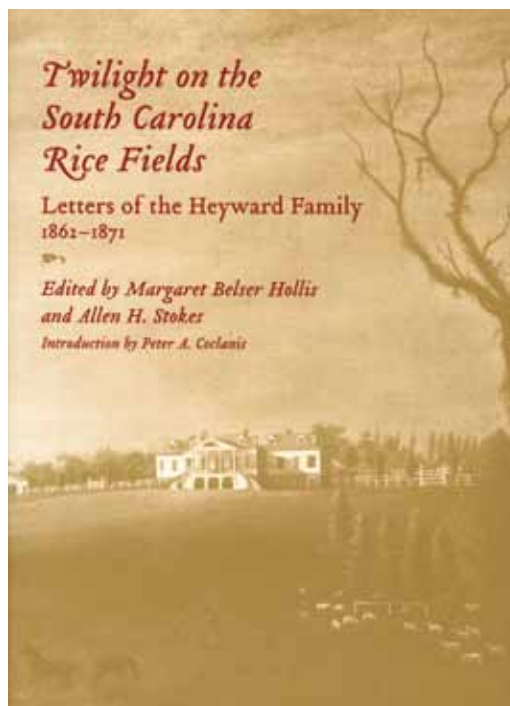
REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY ALLEN STOKES

The University of South Carolina Libraries have partnered with the University of South Carolina Press to republish out-of-print titles of regional and scholarly importance. Selected titles are from the South Caroliniana Library and the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in the Thomas Cooper Library. Titles are available "print-on-demand" through AccessAble Books and may be ordered from the USC Press. The volumes are also available online via the Libraries' Web site (www.sc.edu/library).

Among the titles from the South Caroliniana Library's collections are *The Planter's Guide and Family Book of Medicine for the Instruction and Use of Planters, Families, and Country People, and All Others Who May Be Out of the Reach of Physicians, or Unable to Employ Them* by John Hume Simons; *History of Company B, Twenty-first Regiment (Infantry) South Carolina Volunteers* by Henry Kershaw DuBose; and two Civil War titles published as one volume: *Some*

Continued on page 2



of Researcher Remembers

BY SEAN PATRICK NALTY

"I have very fond memories of visiting the South Caroliniana Library in November 2004 when I did my original research on my 2005 University of Virginia master's essay, 'Measures Not Men: South Carolina and the Election of 1848,' continually asking for more microfilmed newspapers and transcribing the information in a little notebook of mine. I had often read in histories dealing with the Palmetto State about the legendary service that your staff provides researchers like me, but I have to say that I was truly fortunate to get the opportunity to work there and receive the invaluable assistance of those working at Caroliniana.

"I have visited or contacted a number of research institutions across the country, but what separates yours from the others is the willingness of your staff to suggest other pertinent items as well as certain recent acquisitions that I should view. This 'going the extra mile' always reminds me why historians could never do the work they do without the talented archivists that one finds at places like Caroliniana. It is also why I have recommended your institution to anyone doing work in Southern history or specifically South Carolina topics. Thanks again for all your generosity and help over the years."

—Sean Patrick Nalty, a Ph.D. candidate in U.S. history, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, sent this item to Henry Fulmer, SCL curator of manuscripts.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR *Continued from page 1*

Reminiscences of a Confederate Soldier by Edwin Calhoun and *Reminiscences of the Sixties* by Charles Crosland. Forthcoming titles are *The Carolinian Florist of Governor John Drayton of South Carolina* edited by Margaret Babcock Meriwether and *Thirty-four Years: An American Story of Southern Life* by John Marchmont, pseudonym of Celina E. Means.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

The staff members of the South Caroliniana Library currently are formulating plans to contribute to a sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War.

In February 2010, the University of South Carolina Libraries, acting as lead applicant, submitted a grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to create Whirlwind of Change, a museum and library partnership drawing on the collections and staff expertise at the College of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the South Carolina State Museum, Thomas Cooper Library, the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, and the South Caroliniana Library. Whirlwind of Change proposes to explore cutting-edge technologies for displaying objects on the Internet and to create a freely searchable database of artifacts, manuscripts, and printed materials owned by the institutions from the period between the Nullification Crisis and the end of Reconstruction (1828–1877), with an emphasis on the Civil War era (1861–1865). The database will showcase many research materials that are not currently available online and are rarely seen by the public. The overall project is intended as part of a statewide effort to observe the American Civil War sesquicentennial anniversary. IMLS will announce the successful awardees in September 2010.

HEYWARD FAMILY PAPERS

The papers of the Heyward Family of South Carolina are considered one of the library's most important collections on rice culture during the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction. The correspondence of Edward Barnwell Heyward; his wife, Catherine Maria Clinch Heyward; his father, Charles Heyward; overseer S.H. Boineau; and other family members is the subject of *Twilight on the South Carolina Rice Fields: Letters of the Heyward Family, 1862–1871*. Edited by Margaret Belser Hollis and Allen H. Stokes, the volume is scheduled to be published for the South Caroliniana Library by the USC Press in summer 2010.

"FULFILLING THE MISSION"

The University Libraries, like all departments and programs on the Columbia campus, are experiencing the impact of the decline in public funding during this time of shrinking state revenues. The funds that you, the membership of the University South Caroliniana Society, provide through your dues and other contributions, earnings from the society's endowment, and other private funds managed by the University's Educational Foundation enable the South Caroliniana Library to fulfill its mission of acquiring printed, manuscript, and visual materials that document South Carolina's rich historical, cultural, and literary heritage. Your direct gifts of collections and the acquisitions secured with the funding that you provide add to the depth and breadth of the resources that are available to researchers at one of the nation's premier collections for studying the history of the American South.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ROBERT K. ACKERMAN

It is my pleasure to report that the University South Caroliniana Society is completing another productive year. We conducted our annual meeting on April 24. The speaker was John McCardell Jr., president emeritus of Middlebury College and now vice chancellor-elect of The University of the South. His topic, which pertained to William Gilmore Simms, was of particular interest to the society in that the South Caroliniana Library has received a grant of \$480,580 from the Watson-Brown Foundation to support work on Simms. This endeavor will of course gain additional significance for the library.

Society membership now stands at 1,496. The endowment was \$2,045,243.95 at the end of 2009, somewhat better than a year ago, major purchases and a major recession notwithstanding. All of this is to indicate that the membership can be pleased with our progress.

I again urge all members to continue seeking new members, additional materials for the library, and additional funds.

Best wishes to all.

A RECENT ACQUISITION



TREASURES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY



"Charleston," city map by I. Luffman, geographer; published by I. Luffman, c. 1790



South Carolina. Young and Delleker. Philadelphia: A. Finley, 1824



Plan of the city of Charleston, S.C., c. 1805



University of South Carolina students block the entrance to the administration building to protest disciplinary hearings being held there by the Board of Trustees. The peaceful sit-in later turned ugly as students stormed the building and vandalized the first-floor offices. When the National Guard arrived, the students moved to the Horseshoe, where the troops deployed tear gas to disperse the crowd of about 2,000 people.

"STUDENT ACTIVISM, SOUTHERN STYLE"

AN EXHIBIT ON STUDENT ACTIVISM at the University of South Carolina in the 1960s and 1970s was produced by the University Archives in conjunction with a conference, "Student Activism, Southern Style: Organizing and Protest in the 1960s and 70s," held on campus in March. The history departments of USC and Western Carolina University sponsored the conference.

According to conference leaders, "Student protest was a signature element of the political turmoil of the Vietnam era. The spring of 1970 witnessed some of the largest student protests in U.S. history, many connected to the tragic events at Kent State University. Students at the University of South Carolina briefly occupied the Russell House University Union, in a show

of solidarity with Kent State and in protest of developments at home and abroad. Yet the histories of these students, and many others at campuses throughout the old South, tend to be neglected in the conventional narratives of student protest, civil rights activism, and broader accounts of the counter-culture.

"While northern student protestors and activists are typically seen as agents of change, the South is typically seen as the subject of radical change, and as a field in which northern agents encountered resistance. Yet, as the story of the Russell House illustrates, the South offered its own indigenous activism that was no less sincere, if less amplified, than its northern counterpart."

A sepia-toned portrait of a young man, Alexander S. Salley, with short, dark hair and a serious expression, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie.

A.S. Salley

ELEPHANTS ARE *BURIED* IN SOUTH CAROLINA: *True or False?*

BY HARVEY S. TEAL

THE “THERE ARE ELEPHANTS BURIED IN SOUTH CAROLINA” STORY ORIGINATED IN THIS MANNER. In historical circles, Alexander S. Salley, the state historian from 1905 to 1949, was renowned far and wide for his encyclopedic knowledge of the state’s history and historical minutia. His reputation developed from his long tenure in office, his reading and research, and his writings on the state’s history. Individuals often tried to discover a South Carolina history fact unknown to Salley, but few ever did.

On one occasion an individual learned of an elephant being buried in South Carolina and announced his discovery at a meeting being attended by Salley. After the individual completed his announcement, historian Salley quickly stood up and announced, “Sir, I must correct you. There are two elephants buried in South Carolina.” He then proceeded to tell the group where the elephants were buried.

Although I heard this story a number of times, I never remember anyone giving the location of these burials or further details like the name of the individual who attempted to stump Salley on the aforementioned occasion. In any event, this story has some relevance to Kershaw County history.

\$10,000 Killer Elephant

On Aug. 25, 1855, the circus of G.F. Bailey & Company performed in Camden. The next morning the circus began its journey to Columbia for a performance there. About five miles outside of Camden, near Col. W.J. Taylor’s residence and mill, the circus elephant became unruly, killing a horse and George West, the elephant’s keeper. The elephant escaped and took refuge in a nearby swamp.

That afternoon while the elephant was still “on the loose,” coroner C.J. DeHay convened an inquest on the spot where the elephant killed West. The jury rendered the expected verdict: West came to his death by being gored by an elephant owned by the G.F. Bailey Circus. As the verdict was being read, some comic in the crowd shouted, “The elephant is coming!” Whereupon, the coroner, jurors, and others present scattered like a covey of quail.

A detachment from the local militia company, the Camden Light Infantry, under the command of Lt. James I. Villipigue, was called out to attempt to kill the elephant that afternoon and night, but without success. The next day, they succeeded in shooting out one of the elephant’s eyes and his demise soon followed.

Friends of lower Richland County physician Samuel Wells Leland had attended the circus performance and knew the details of the killing of the elephant and related them to Dr. Leland. In his diary, now at the

South Caroliniana Library, he recorded the following details on Aug. 27, 1855: “He [the elephant] killed and threw over the bridge a horse, and after crossing the creek being reproved by his keeper for wishing to take the wrong road, he struck him with his tusks, killing him instantly. He afterwards mangled him in a shocking manner. They sent back to Camden for the rifle company who surrounded him and shot over 200 bullets into him before he yielded up his life. He was valued at \$10,000.”

Villipigue recounted this elephant story to the authors of *Historic Camden* and included the detail of his taking one of the elephant’s tusks as a souvenir. It does not appear that this elephant was buried, since individuals visited the site long afterward to look at the large elephant bones that had been picked clean by maggots, vultures, and other carrion eaters.

\$10,000 Killer Elephant Redux?

On March 20, 1914, a few days after a runaway circus elephant was killed in Chesterfield County, the *Camden Chronicle* reported a story about an unruly elephant in Yorkville (now York) some 65 years earlier that was killed by circus personnel near Camden. It is possible that this was a reference to the Aug. 25, 1855, elephant killing, but the accounts differ in several details. Sixty-five years earlier would have been 1849, and a search of the Camden newspaper for that year and the next yielded no mention of an elephant being killed near Camden. The 1855 account did not mention the killing of an elephant six years earlier. The Yorkville account elephant was from a different circus, the John Robinson Circus, and it was reported to have been killed by the circus owners. The 1855 elephant was killed by the local militia. Because of these differences, I believe these to be two separate events.

Six Thousand Pound Lena

The final story of an elephant’s demise with a Kershaw County connection is the 1914 one previously mentioned. The Gillespie Brothers Circus performed in Lugoff in early March 1914. Their small wagon circus included Lena, a 6,000-pound female elephant. From Lugoff the circus passed through Camden and likely performed in Bethune, although I could find no record of a performance there. I say “likely” since the circus performed in McBee and would have performed in Patrick had Lena not escaped a few miles outside of town.

On the morning of March 13, 1914, the people of Patrick were assembled awaiting the arrival of the circus when word came that the elephant had escaped and was “on the loose.” Most of these rural folks knew little or nothing about elephants, but they did believe them to be large, wild, and dangerous animals that represented a threat to human safety. A ready-made “posse” in Patrick was at hand and they soon began to trail the elephant.

One excited farmer reported to the posse, “That animal stomped through my turnip patch and swiped up turnips with its tail and crammed them up it’s a—. I’ve never seen anything like it in all my born days.” He obviously was totally ignorant about the anatomy of an elephant.

The posse, now numbering more than 200 local citizens, cornered the elephant about five miles from Patrick in the Cedar Creek community of Chesterfield/Darlington Counties, near C.C. Winburn’s home. This was

about a mile and a half from where my father’s family lived. Needless to say, my father and my redheaded uncle, Lee Teal, joined the posse. My uncle found himself in the path of the elephant and climbed a small tree to escape, but Lena the elephant just pushed the tree over with him in it. With amusement and twinkle in his eyes, my father recalled, “Lee hit the ground running. He ran so fast he looked like a red streak going through the woods.”

After firing hundreds of shots from various and assorted pistols, rifles, and shotguns into the poor beast, and through the aid of axes, the elephant was dispatched about 9 p.m. The patch of woods where this occurred some 95 years ago still bears the name “Elephant Thicket.”

Ruminations on Elephants, Buried or Not

My father never mentioned any burial of the elephant before his death in 1948. During his lifetime, I was unaware of the “buried elephants” story, and I never asked him about the disposition of the elephant’s body. Neither did any local newspaper discuss its disposition.

It was a common practice at the time to haul a dead cow or mule off to a remote area of one’s farm and let the vultures dispose of the carcass. Six thousand pounds of unburied rotting flesh would certainly have “perfumed up” the air for a large area around the body for several weeks.

Since I once helped my brother bury his 1,000-pound mule, I have a good idea of the size hole necessary to bury a 6,000-pound elephant. To dig such a hole without a backhoe or machinery would have been a gargantuan task.

In January 2006, Billy Johnson, who grew up and still lives near the site where Lena met her demise, took me and two cousins to see it. He recalled playing in the Elephant Thicket in the 1930s and seeing small pieces of bone that reportedly came from the elephant. He also related that a local citizen took the elephant’s skull as a souvenir and kept it in his barn for a number of years. He further stated no person lived within a half mile of that place in 1914. All of this information strongly suggests Lena was never buried, but was just left for the vultures.

These stories of the demise of three elephants with Kershaw County connections have not identified the burial of any of them for a certainty. So where are elephants buried in South Carolina? I don’t know. Alexander S. Salley died and was buried in 1961. Perhaps this bit of historical minutia was buried with him.

—Harvey S. Teal is a longtime supporter of the South Caroliniana Library, having given many items for the collections over the years.



COLUMBIA'S *Historic Gardens*

Most city dwellers today think of a garden as a little plot of land in their yard, maybe a few planters or rows of vegetables where they can dig around and persuade something to grow. Years ago, gardens in Columbia were a much more grand undertaking, spanning acres or whole city blocks and requiring a lifetime of dedication by the landowner or proprietor. These people contributed not only to the beautification of the city, but also to its economic and social life. They introduced new plants to Columbia and helped cultivate hearty strains of many plants that are now taken for granted.

The following stories introduce people who committed themselves to helping Columbia and her gardens thrive.

BY WILLIAM THRIFT



Rows of magnolia trees stand guard over the grassy backyard of the Hampton-Preston House, which once held trees, shrubs, and winding paths.

SARAH BOYLSTON GARDEN

(Research provided by Jennie Dreher Evins)



The Caldwell-Boylston House as it looks today on the grounds of the South Carolina Governor's Mansion



Shaded arbor walkway



The War Memorial Garden

In the early 1900s, Columbia was enjoying a full-swing resurrection from both the devastation of the Civil War and the humiliation of the Reconstruction period. To the businessmen, socialites, students, lawmakers, and others who made Columbia their home, life was rolling onward. Some, like Sarah Porter Smith Boylston, celebrated life with life.

Mrs. Boylston came from an affluent Northern family who, in 1889, chose Columbia as their winter home. She married and settled permanently in Columbia in what became known as the Boylston House, on the corner of Richland and Lincoln streets. Behind the house were four tiers of land with native deciduous trees for summer shade, and evergreens and cedars to protect lower plants in winter. The original builder and owner of the house, John Caldwell, had planned a layout of a garden on the tiered area complete with walking paths and had developed some of the upper level.

Boylston built upon what was already there by adding azaleas, camellias, crepe myrtles, boxwoods, fountains, arbors, and garden houses. She divided the garden into sections using cherry laurels and

boxwoods. The high cherry laurel hedges were bare-pruned nearly to the top, giving the trunks a lattice effect that enabled the sun to reach the lower boxwoods. She scattered flower beds throughout the garden with narcissi, carnations, larkspur, daisy chrysanthemums, and many varieties of lilies.

At Boylston's country garden near Winnsboro, she maintained a mountain garden where she grew lilacs and peonies and also cultivated a vast collection of wild flowers and ferns indigenous to South Carolina. She often transplanted these into her city garden, where she was proud to host a variety of parties and other social events throughout the year. Her garden was considered a preeminent gathering place, and visitors included national and international statesmen and entertainers.

During World War II, Boylston donated part of her garden to the state to be used as a memorial to South Carolina war veterans. This portion of her former garden remains part of the South Carolina Governor's Mansion grounds.

MARY CANTEY HAMPTON GARDEN

(Research provided by Lindsay Crawford)



Hampton-Preston House today



Arbors and fountains offered pleasing vistas for Mary Hampton's guests.



"Wade Hampton's Garden, Columbia, South Carolina," a woodcut by William Waud, which appeared in the April 15, 1865, issue of Harper's Weekly.



Students at the College for Women, which occupied the Hampton-Preston House from 1890 to 1915, donned these costumes for a production of Robin Hood.

Even though the American colonists revolted against English rule, they never lost their appreciation for English social expressions. One prevalent idea held that expanding the genteel home into cultivated, formal gardens could boost a landowner's standing in society. This notion was not lost on Mary Cantey Hampton when she and her husband, General Wade Hampton, purchased a house and surrounding grounds in Columbia in 1823.

Located on four acres, including the site of the Historic Columbia Foundation's Hampton-Preston House museum and grounds today, the garden cultivated by Mrs. Hampton and her daughter, Caroline Hampton Preston, was one of the largest English-style gardens in the antebellum South. Guests at many of Hampton's extravagant social events were secluded behind high walls along three sides. However, on Blanding (then Walnut) Street, a lower wall with a wrought iron fence enabled passersby to see over a hedge of fragrant tea olives and to glimpse Hampton and her guests enjoying the maze of walkways and geometrical plant beds.

Hampton and her family traveled extensively, and everywhere she went she learned new gardening ideas and collected samples and seeds

that she brought back to her garden. She also imported many plants from overseas and, according to E.T.H. Shaffer in *Carolina Gardens*, was responsible for introducing the enormous Cedars of Lebanon from the Holy Land into Columbia's landscape.

W.R. Bergholz, in *Farmer and Planter*, provides one of the best descriptions of the Hampton garden with its several species of magnolia and ginkgo trees, paulownia, fuchsias, camellia japonicas, English ivy, geraniums, and more. He notes at least two greenhouses in the garden, one with exotic plants and the other where Hampton tried growing foreign grapes.

Over the years, development encroached upon Hampton's elaborate garden, finally engulfing it in 1947. According to the Historic Columbia Foundation's director of cultural resources, John Sherrer, an archeological excavation of some of the original garden has recently been concluded. The purpose of the dig was to map part of the garden and identify and preserve subterranean assets such as remnants of buildings or other structures. The next step will be to restore a portion of the garden to its original grandeur so that future generations may enjoy it.

ROBERT E. RUSSELL GARDEN

(Research provided by Lindsay Crawford)



The State House is reflected in the glass tower at 1221 Main Street.



The 1786 State House as it appeared when Robert Russell operated his garden shop in the mid-19th century. It was destroyed, and the partially built new State House was damaged, when General Sherman attacked Columbia in 1865. (Image from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Aug. 17, 1861)

Columbia, like most other cities, has a history of public disputes over land use. According to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, in the 1830s, citizens of Columbia disagreed on the use of the town's common land adjacent to the first State House. Robert E. Russell wanted to lease a parcel located on the southwest corner of the block bounded by Senate, Sumter, Lady and Main (then Richardson) streets. Although a tailor by trade, he wished to develop a commercial and recreational botanical garden on the site.

Columbia officials believed that the city would benefit by having a central, public garden, so Russell prevailed. He designed and established an elaborate garden with trees, hedges, flower beds, and a fountain. According to advertisements in local newspapers, Russell sold flowers, plants, and seeds in a shop on the site. Like most nurseries of the day, Russell's shop stocked according to the season. In the summer, he sold such plants as azaleas, geraniums, and camellia japonicas. Winter offerings were more practical, with spinach, onions, shallots, and leeks. It is also reported by John Bryan in *Creating the South Carolina*



Azaleas and dogwoods which adorn the State House grounds today recall those offered by Robert Russell in his garden shop.

State House that Russell imported some plants from other states and from Holland.

Jeff Wilkinson reports in *The State* that the city blocks around the existing State House were to be consolidated for the building of a new State House in early 1854. Russell prepared for the inevitability by advertising a "going out of business sale." His garden was closed and absorbed into the State House grounds. Russell passed away in March 1854.

—A graduate of the University of South Carolina, William Thrift has traveled extensively in the United States and abroad. After serving many years as a corporate regional manager for a private business, his creative side has emerged. He has written a novel and currently produces short fiction and nonfiction articles, enjoys song writing, and dabbles in creative cuisine. He would like to express his special thanks to South Caroliniana Library librarians Henry Fulmer and Beth Bilderback for their help with his research.

My Decade with *Mary Chesnut,* or, the Joys of the *Caroliniana Library*

BY JULIA STERN



Ambrotype of Mary Chesnut

MARY CHESNUT'S "VOICE," AS PERFORMED BY ACTRESS JULIE HARRIS IN KEN BURNS' "THE CIVIL WAR" FILM SHOWN ON PBS IN 1990, virtually grabbed me through the television set. Who was this brilliant, mordant, dark,

hilarious woman Harris represented, and how could she have lived in the 19th century? What kind of Southern matron of the planter aristocracy believed that slavery was wrong, yet couldn't quite bear to give up the comforts it afforded white people? What did this woman's "writing" hold? How could it be that I, a graduate student of American literature, had never heard of her? I vowed then and there to buy her great book and to immerse myself in it as soon as I had navigated the milestones of my career as a scholar of literature at Northwestern University.

My return to Mary Chesnut took far too long: only after receiving tenure in 1998 did I crack the big book, but that event changed my life forever. Having studied comparative epic at Columbia University, I realized that Chesnut's book was encyclopedic: it mediated the founding of a culture; it deconstructed that culture's fault lines; it involved divinities and theology, history and politics, the domestic and quotidian; it contained oral tradition in the form of songs and poems; and it involved a trip to the underworld. Mary Chesnut's unfinished Civil War epic was the narrative yearned for by Edmund Wilson when he wrote that no work of prose did justice to this great theme, except, perhaps, "the diary of Mrs. Chesnut."

Self-confessed Archive-phobe Visits the Caroliniana

By the time I walked into the South Caroliniana Library in September 2002, I had been an avid Mary Boykin Chesnut fan for two years, a teacher of C. Vann Woodward's 1981 *Mary Chesnut's Civil War* and of Elisabeth Muhlenfeld and Woodward's 1984 *The Private Mary Chesnut*, and a scholar beginning a book project on her revised 1880 Civil War narrative. I also was a self-confessed archive-phobe. So anxious had I been over not having been trained to find and work with ephemeral historical documents that I had sent an intrepid graduate student to unearth the pertinent early American newspaper materials relevant to my first book, *The Plight of Feeling: Sympathy and Dissent in the Early American Novel* (University of Chicago Press: 1997).

I soon learned that those who worked on Chesnut had no such fears: Dr. Elisabeth Muhlenfeld, president emeritus of Sweet Briar College, our most distinguished Chesnut scholar, biographer, and editor, conducted research for more than two decades to produce her publications based on the Chesnut materials. Seemingly undaunted by a hand that, at its most legible, orthographic experts would deign thorny, Dr. Muhlenfeld mastered Chesnut's seven diary books and 54 revised notebooks, transcribed and edited the private diaries of the 1860s, composed the finest biography of Chesnut, and edited her unfinished novels, bringing them to print in the last decade. Indebted from start to finish to Muhlenfeld's groundbreaking contributions, my project sought to understand Chesnut's revised 1880 narrative as literary masterpiece—the great, unfinished epic of the Civil War, written from the point of view of a woman from the losing side.

My first foray into the Caroliniana revealed how much I had to learn. Chesnut's "red book," the extant first volume of her original 1860s diary,



MAJOR NEW BOOK RE-EXAMINES SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY'S MOST CELEBRATED COLLECTION

“A genteel southern intellectual, saloniste, and wife to a prominent colonel in Jefferson Davis’ inner circle, Mary Chesnut today is remembered best for her penetrating Civil War diary. Composed between 1861 and 1865 and revised thoroughly from the late 1870s until Chesnut’s death in 1886, the diary was published first in 1905, again in 1949, and later, to great acclaim, in 1981. This complicated literary history and the questions that attend it — which edition represents the real Chesnut and to what genre does this text belong — may explain why the document largely has, until now, been overlooked in literary studies.

“Julia A. Stern’s critical analysis returns Mary Chesnut to her rightful place among American writers. In *Mary Chesnut’s Civil War Epic*, Stern argues that the revised diary offers the most trenchant literary account of race and slavery until the work of Faulkner and that, along with his Yoknapatawpha novels, it constitutes one of the two great

Civil War epics of the American canon. By restoring Chesnut’s 1880s revision to its complex, multidecade cultural context, Stern argues both for Chesnut’s reinsertion into the pantheon of 19th-century American letters and for her centrality to the literary history of women’s writing as it evolved from sentimental to tragic to realist forms.” —*Information supplied by the publisher, University of Chicago Press.*

along with its six less elegant copybook companions, was on tour beyond the bounds of the University of South Carolina. It hadn’t occurred to me to call ahead and verify the availability of these documents. After all, I had imagined archives as monumental places, where items from the collection did not circulate, but instead maintained their larger-than-life qualities as, one precious artifact at a time, curators brought borrowers magical material on pillows, to be touched and examined with special gloves alone.

Williams-Chesnut-Manning Collection

With a sinking heart, I asked Henry Fulmer, head archivist of the collection, who soon became a treasured friend, if the papers pertaining to Chesnut and her family also were traveling on exhibit. He gently assured me that the entire Williams-Chesnut-Manning collection remained in the Caroliniana and was available for study. So it was that I began to immerse myself in materials that made up the ambient atmosphere of Mary Chesnut’s world.

The item from the Williams-Chesnut-Manning collection that thrilled me most was a letter penned by Mary Chesnut’s sister-in-law, Serena, in 1817 invoking the old Colonel James Chesnut’s consoling words to his eldest son, John, who had been sent down from Princeton for allegedly taking part in a student riot. Indirectly, father assured son that there were other colleges to attend and that a bright future remained possible. So, despite historical studies arguing for a patriarchal form of child rearing well into the 19th century, Chesnut’s father-in-law responded to his lineal heir’s youthful shenanigans with empathy rather than a sermon and the rod. This, indeed, was a fascinating glimpse of a family in many ways ahead of its time.

My first visit also involved exploration of the scant printed record of the murder of Chesnut’s first cousin Elizabeth Witherspoon of Society Hill by her slaves in the fall of 1861. With the help of a wonderful newspaper librarian on the second floor, I found what she believed are the only two extant accounts of this homicide in the Charleston papers. Again, historical discoveries opened up literary vistas: why was the second newspaper account of the Witherspoon murder narrated in tones far more gothic (involving the “unspeakable”) and melodramatic

(describing the event in Manichean terms of absolute good and evil) than was Mary Chesnut’s measured and clinical (objective and noneditorializing) portrait? Heretofore, I had never imagined newspaper prose as passionately biased, particularly compared to a revised memoir. The archive had much to teach me about a subject I thought I understood: the nature of literary genre.

After nearly a week in the Caroliniana filled with long days and joyful discoveries (Governor John Manning’s beautiful, flourish-filled, and self-conscious handwriting corroborates Chesnut’s account of his vanity) and disappointments and frustrations (so few Southern newspaper copies survive from 1862 through 1866), I returned to Chicago beginning to feel like an archival scholar.

Mary Chesnut’s Notebooks

It would be nearly five years before I was able to return. This time I brought another intrepid graduate student, herself a Chesnut scholar now in the doctoral program in American civilization at Harvard, to run down census data, freedmen’s rolls, wills, etc. My job was to study the 1860s diary notebooks and the huge treasury of revised 1880s manuscripts. By this time, I knew the published versions of Chesnut’s works so well that I was able to use my memory of passages to check against that ever-difficult handwriting. With Henry Fulmer helping me to decipher the scribbling, I worked my way through the huge boxes of notebooks, volumes so banal-looking as to suggest a Woolworth product from the 1950s. Here were Chesnut’s remarkable cultural insights expressed on paper so far removed from the elegant red book in which she began as to seem like detritus. And, despite having to work with such inadequate raw materials, her remarkable prose, sometimes even scrawled in pencil, had endured into the 21st century. I returned home in a state of wonder, and, as if inspired by being able to touch the pages that Chesnut herself had penned, I finally finished the penultimate and final drafts of my own *Mary Chesnut’s Civil War Epic* (University of Chicago Press, 2010).

—*Julia Stern is Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University.*

University of SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT EXAMS,

1854–1917

What were student exams like at the University of South Carolina in 1855? What subjects were students studying in 1900?

BY PATRICIA SASSER

A new digital collection from the University Archives, University of South Carolina Student Exams, 1854–1917, offers the answers to these questions and others as it charts the evolution of teaching and learning through seven decades.

The collection contains more than 200 documents and includes printed exams, handwritten student answers, and even “scratch paper,” where students worked out the problems. Although the collection had been previously processed by University Archives and was open to researchers, many of the materials were fragile or damaged and unable to withstand heavy use.

In order to preserve the documents and make them more accessible, University Archivist Elizabeth West asked me to focus my internship on a digitization project that would include detailed information about each item. Supported by the Digital Collections Department at Thomas Cooper Library, I scanned each page and researched both the faculty who created the exams and the students who took them.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

1. What is English Grammar?
2. Define a sentence and give an example.
3. Name the parts of speech. How many numbers, genders, person and cases are there?
4. Give the feminine of hero. Compare full.
5. Parse the following sentence: “The accusing angel flew up to Heaven’s chancery with the oath and blushed as he gave it in.”

(Examination from the Radical University, 1873–1877)

EXAMINATION IN CHEMISTRY: JUNIOR CLASS, JUNE 1855

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. How is chlorine prepared cheaply, for purposes of manufacture? | 7 |
| 2. Describe the methods of preparing potassium? | 9 |
| 3. What are the properties of phosphorus? | 10 |
| 4. What are the properties of carbonic oxide? | 10 |
| 5. What are the properties of hydrochloric acid? | 12 |
| 6. What are the properties of potassium? | 12 |
| 7. What are the names and formulae of the compounds of sulphur and oxygen? | 8 |
| 8. What is the test for iodine? hydrochloric acid? nitric acid? the compounds of strontia? | 12 |
| 9. When a metallic chloride is dissolved in water, what two different views may be taken of the changes that occur? | 10 |
| 10. What are the uses of silica? of lime? of carbon? of plumbago? | 9 |

CERTIFICATE

Previous to coming into the examination room, I did not know what questions were to be proposed, and in preparing my answers, I have not been assisted in the room, either by notes, memoranda, books, other students, or in any other form.

ARE YOU
SMARTER
THAN A
19TH-CENTURY
COLLEGE STUDENT?

Identifying printed exams was relatively easy, but handwritten answers by students required more investigation. Using records in University Archives, I was able to identify most student names, dates of attendance, approximate dates of the exams, and the careers students pursued after graduation. One large group of exams, however, proved elusive. Although it was obvious that the names on the exams belonged to students at the University, none of the names appeared in alumni records. We suspected that these exams were taken by African American students who attended what was called the Radical University between 1873 and 1877. After this brief period of integration, almost all records of these students were destroyed. Using correspondence from this period, a few remaining student lists, and city registers, we were able to identify the students who took many of these exams. The exams now serve as some of the best documentation we have of these African Americans and their important place in the University's history.

This collection demonstrates how the University's curriculum developed over time. Early exams reflect the institution's original focus on classical education when freshman students had to pass lengthy exams in Latin and Greek. Later exams show the emergence of other disciplines, including medicine and modern languages.

In its digital format, the collection allows researchers to move easily between multiple exams and find information about the subject, the faculty, and the students.

The digital collection may be accessed at <http://sc.edu/library/digital/collections/sx.html>.

—*Patricia Sasser wrote this report about a digital project she completed while working as an intern in University Archives. She graduated in December 2009 with a Master of Library and Information Science degree.*

**EXAMINATION IN METAPHYSICS:
SENIOR CLASS, NOVEMBER 1857**

1. What are the commonly received division of the Mental Powers, and mention objections to it.	7
2. What is the platonic doctrine of Perception?	10
3. Mention some of the consequences to which the doctrine of Idealism was pushed, and give me in this connection, the names of the philosophers.	12
4. What is the fundamental principle of the system of Sensationalism?	7
5. What is the sense in which Reid uses the term <i>Idea</i> , and in what aspect may his refutation of the theory of Idealism be regarded complete?	19
6. Give me some of the different forms of Idealism.	9
7. What is Cosmothetic Idealism?	9
8. What is Locke's theory of Perception?	9
9. What is to argue from Common Sense?	12
10. Who are the exponents of the doctrine in modern times, and state the conditions of the arguments.	13
	100

CERTIFICATE

Previous to coming into the examination room, I did not know what questions were to be proposed, and in preparing my answers, I have not been assisted in the room, either by notes, memoranda, books, other students, or in any other form.

**EXAMINATION OF THE JUNIOR
CLASS UPON THE HISTORY OF
MORAL PHILOSOPHY:
APRIL 1861, PROF. BARNWELL**

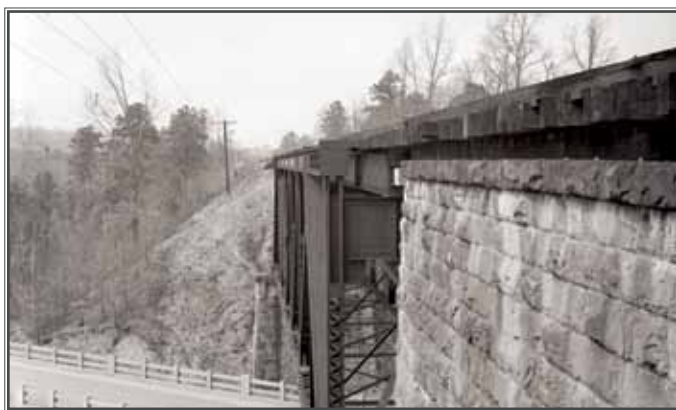
1. How do you distinguish Moral Philosophy from its sources?	7
2. Who is the reputed father of Moral Philosophy?	2
3. Who is best entitled to that honor?	3
4. What is the definition of Virtue given by Phythagoras?	6
5. Who was Socrates? Mention some striking characteristics of mode of teaching and manners generally.	10
6. Whence do we obtain the best information concerning his moral opinions?	6
7. What is meant by Socratic irony?	7
8. What school sprung from Socrates' instructions?	3
9. What is the doctrine of Agrenaics?	7
10. Plato's definition of Virtue?	5
11. Aristotle's account of Happiness?	10
12. What did the Romans contribute to Moral Science?	8
13. What is the character of the Christian Ethics?	7
14. What three circumstances favored the growth of Asceticism?	10
15. What is Mysticism?	5
16. Who were the Schoolmen?	5
	100

SOUTHERN RAILWAY PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES

SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES, 1935–1977, OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY STEAM ENGINES, ROLLING STOCK, AND FACILITIES WERE ACQUIRED BY THE LIBRARY THIS YEAR.



Union Station, Anderson, S.C., has an architectural style unique to South Carolina.



Side view of Blue Ridge bridge support at track level, Highway 76, below crossing Twenty Mile Creek, near La France, S.C., site of four forms of transportation crossing at one location: boat, car, train, and plane.



Train wreck on Western & Carolina Rail Road at Enoree, ca. 1965

PAPERS OF THE SINKLER FAMILY

LAWRYN HENDERSON AND HER STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY'S ARTHUR E. HOLMAN JR. CONSERVATION LABORATORY recently completed a project to restore documents in the Sinkler family papers. The materials that were sent to the lab were too fragile to be handled, but they are now restored and ready to be consulted by researchers.

The Papers of the Sinkler Family of Upper St. John's Parish (1705, 1739, 1750–1793, 1984) comprise 484 manuscripts, four manuscript volumes, seven cased images, and two family photograph albums. Included in the collection are correspondence, land papers, plantation plats, and plantation records.

THREE-VOLUME ANTHOLOGY ON SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN NEARS COMPLETION



Left to right, Valinda Littlefield and Marjorie J. Spruill (Photo by Beth Bilderback)

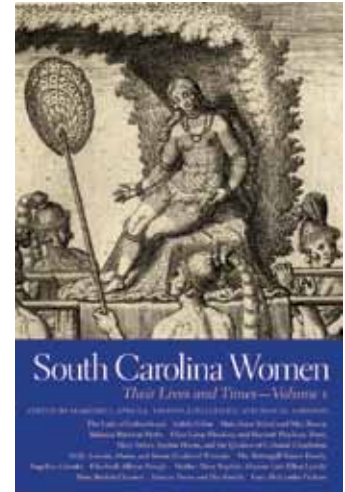
MARJORIE J. SPRUILL, VALINDA LITTLEFIELD, AND JOAN MARIE JOHNSON are the editors of a new three-volume anthology, *South Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times* (University of Georgia Press, Vol. 1, 2009; Vol. 2, 2010; Vol. 3, 2011).

Spruill and Littlefield, of the USC Department of History, and Johnson, of Northeastern Illinois University, have been involved in compiling and editing the anthology for the past several years. Altogether, the three volumes include 56 essays about South Carolina women written by scholars across the state and the nation and from abroad.

“A Window into the World”

According to Spruill, “Our goal was to produce a collection of thoughtful, well-written essays that, focusing on the lives of individuals or small groups of South Carolina women, illuminate the history of the state, the South, in many cases the nation, and the history of women and gender roles in American society. We chose a ‘lives and times’ approach because we believe that a biographical methodology makes history accessible at the same time that it provides readers a window into the world in which the subject lived. We asked the authors of the essays to focus on the events in which the featured women were involved and analyze their experiences in the context of time and place.

“Each of the three volumes in the anthology features a diverse group of women in terms of region, race, ethnicity, class, and religion within South Carolina. While some of the subjects, such as Eliza Lucas Pinckney, Septima Clark, and Chief Justice Jean Hofer Toal of the South Carolina Supreme Court, are well-known, others will be unfamiliar to many readers, such as “The Lady of Cofitachequi,” the Indian sovereign that Hernando de Soto encountered when he came to the area that now includes Columbia during the 1500s; a family of free African American women of Charleston; and the women of a barely literate family in Mush Creek in upstate South



Carolina whose letters to soldiers during the Civil War were miraculously preserved and are housed in the South Caroliniana Library.

“The essays are scholarly but accessible in tone: the goal is to appeal to the general public as well as to students, teachers, and scholars.

We hope that the anthology will encourage people to think about the importance of gender in shaping our lives as well as the role of women in the state’s long and fascinating history. We also hope that the wonderful stories contained in these volumes will not only interest and inform readers but inspire them, especially the young women and girls of the state. Finally, we hope that the publication of the anthology will draw attention to the rich resources for studying South Carolina women and encourage further research about women and gender relations in the state.”

Part of a Series

Spruill and Littlefield became interested in this project soon after Spruill came to the University in 2004. When Johnson, a scholar already well-published in South Carolina women’s history, came up with a similar idea, they decided to join forces in 2005. Spruill had been involved in a similar project with Nancy Grayson, associate director and editor-in-chief of the University of Georgia Press, who enthusiastically supported the new project. The anthology is part of an ongoing series that began with the publication in 2001 of a similar anthology on Mississippi women that Spruill coedited. Each volume in the series is somewhat different from the others, reflecting the choices of the editors and the history of the state.

Spruill expressed her appreciation for the help provided by the University Libraries: “We all would like to acknowledge the key role of University Libraries in this project. In planning the anthology, we received invaluable advice from archivists, especially from the South Caroliniana Library, including Robin Copp, Henry Fulmer, Allen Stokes, and Beth Bilderback. As the project progressed, these individuals as well as the SCL’s Nicholas Meriwether and Elizabeth West, and Herb Hartsook, Kate Moore, and Lori Schwartz from the South Carolina Political Collections, were very helpful in finding information and illustrations for the anthology. The USC libraries, with their rich and extensive collections, have been essential to many if not most of the contributors as they researched their essays.”

WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS CONFERENCE

The University Libraries and the William Gilmore Simms Society will present a conference, "William Gilmore Simms and the Crucible of Southern Culture," Sept. 23–25, 2010. A major focus of the conference will be "the comparatively neglected post–Civil War period of Simms' life and work, when he elected to stay in his war-torn native South Carolina, embracing the realities of defeat and Reconstruction."

"We are excited to host this interdisciplinary conference devoted to the work of one of the most important 19th-century American literary figures," commented Allen Stokes, director of the South Caroliniana Library. "It is especially appropriate that this event be held here, the home of the greatest Simms collection in the world."

Simms' increasing prominence in scholarly discourses in a variety of fields has brought researchers from as far away as Japan to use the Caroliniana's collections.

The conference will bring prominent Simms scholars from across the country to present papers on every aspect of Simms' life and work. Plans are underway to publish a number of the papers in conjunction with the publication of two unpublished and largely unknown Simms works left in manuscript at his death.

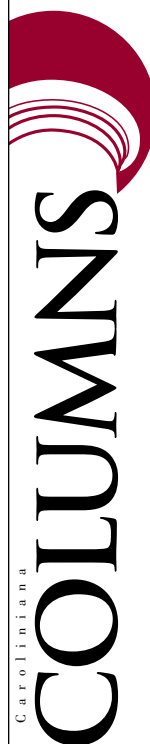
For more information, please contact Allen Stokes at 803-777-5745.



William Gilmore Simms

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